

## REMARKS

The present application is a U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/JP03/08525.

The specification has been amended to reflect the national stage status.

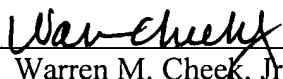
In addition, the claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies in order to reduce the PTO filing fee.

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenji HASHIMOTO et al.

By



Warren M. Cheek, Jr.

Registration No. 33,367

Attorney for Applicants

WMC/dlk  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
December 29, 2004